

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 205060
ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 OES-07 DEAE-00 AID-05
CEQ-01 EPA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:MLCHESHES:OSD

APPROVED BY S/NM:MFALCO

ARA:WSTEDMAN (DRAFT)

ARA/AND/B:DTOYRYLA (DRAFT)

ARA/RPP:JO'GRADY (DRAFT)

USDA:QJONES (INFO)

-----084158 270910Z /21

R 262339Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJECT: RESEARCH ON THE COCA BUSH ERADICATION

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF COCA CROP ERADICATION. WE REALIZE THE SITUATION IN THE COCA GROWING AREA IS NOT ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF MEXICO WHERE AN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IS BEING CARRIED OUT AGAINST OPIUM POPPY. A NUMBER OF FACTORS, INCLUDING POLITICAL, MAY PRECLUDE PURSUING THIS COURSE OF ACTION AT THIS TIME.

2. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH HAS NEVER BEEN CONDUCTED ON THE FEASIBILITY OF USING HERBICIDES FOR CONTROLLING OR ELIMINATING THE COCA BUSH. IN ORDER TO CLOSE THIS GAP IN OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BE ABLE, AT SOME FUTURE TIME, TO DEAL WITH THIS ASPECT OF NARCOTICS CONTROL, WE HAVE ASKED THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DETERMINE IF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 205060

COCA ERADICATION WOULD BE SCIENTIFICALLY POSSIBLE, ECOLOGICALLY SAFE AND ECONOMICALLY PRACTICAL. TO ACCOMPLISH ITS TASK USDA CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL TO CONDUCT A STUDY IN A MAJOR COCA GROWING AREA.

3. USDA PROPOSES SENDING A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE AREAS OF HERBICIDE TECHNOLOGY, HERBICIDE APPLI-

CATION AND MONITORING, PLANT SCIENCE, AND ECOLOGY TO MAKE

AN ON-SITE ASSESSMENT IN A COCA PRODUCING COUNTRY.

4. THE USDA TEAM WILL BE DEVELOPING INFORMATION WHICH WILL REQUIRE THEM TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE GROWING AREAS AND CARRY ON DISCUSSIONS IN LA PAZ. THEY WILL BE COLLECTING DATA ON: (1) SIZE OF PLANTINGS; (2) TOPOGRAPHIC AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS; (3) FOOD CROPS ASSOCIATED WITH COCA PLANTINGS; (4) PRECISE CROP CALENDAR FOR COCA AND ALL OTHER CROPS GROWN IN THE VICINITY. THEY WILL CONSIDER SUCH ASPECTS AS POTABLE WATER SOURCES, FISH AND WILDLIFE IN THE AREA, PROXIMITY OF HUMAN HABITATIONS AND OTHER CROPS TO THE COCA FIELDS. (DEPARTMENT WILL POUCH COPY OF USDA MEMORANDUM WHICH PROVIDES ADDITIONAL SPECIFICS.)

5. WITH EMBASSY CONCURRENCE, BOLIVIA WILL BE THE LOCATION OF THIS RESEARCH SINCE COCA LAND MAY BE AVAILABLE TO US IN THE YUNGAS FOR RESEARCH ON THE BUSH ITSELF. ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AMBASSADOR STEDMAN WAS OFFERED A PLOT OF LAND THERE BY A PRIVATE BOLIVIAN CITIZEN TO BE USED IN FURTHERANCE OF THE JOINT US-BOLIVIAN ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. THIS OFFER WAS MADE BY A MRS. MIMI DE GUTIERREZ, WIFE OF GUILLERMO GUTIERREZ, OWNER OF ESTALSA. THIS LAND MIGHT BE A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR THE USDA RESEARCH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 205060

6. IF THE EMBASSY AND THE GOB CONCUR, REQUEST EMBASSY APPROACH MRS. GUTIERREZ TO DETERMINE IF THE OFFER IS STILL OPEN. IN DISCUSSING THE PROPOSED USDA TEAM VISIT WITH THE GOB, EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT THIS IS TO BE THEORETICAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND NOT NECESSARILY THE IMMEDIATE PRE-CURSOR OF AN ERADICATION PROJECT. IN VIEW OF POTENTIAL ADVERSE REACTION AMONG COCA GROWERS, DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE LIMITED ONLY TO KEY GOB OFFICIALS.

7. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS AND ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY GOB REACTION. IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO PROBLEMS, DEPARTMENT WILL PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR SENDING TEAM TO BOLIVIA. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, COCOA, CROP DESTRUCTION, HERBICIDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE205060
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLCHESHES:OSD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770310-0744
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770817/aaaaanst.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9eddf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1463738
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESEARCH ON THE COCA BUSH ERADICATION
TAGS: SNAR, EAGR, BL, US
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9eddf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009